1: Gorer, Geoffrey. Himalayan Village: An Account of the Lepchas of Sikkim. London: Michael Joseph Ltd., 1938.

Pp. 510; 32 plates; vocabulary; index

Yale: Nkd72 I47 938g

[The field-work for this book was done by Gorer in the company of John Morris (for his description of the Lepcha see 2: Morris, this file). As a result of observations made in common, and the relatively small size of the village studied, there is some overlap in the data presented, particularly about given individuals. Gorer's work is oriented toward personality and culture, with particular attention paid to aggression. The book contains data on buildings, food-getting activities, religions, the life cycle, kinship, government, and mythology of the Lepcha. Gorer, although a journalist by profession, received training prior to entering the field from Ruty Benedict, Margaret Mead, and John Dollard. --Analyst]

Field date: 1937
Analyst: James Leary

Evaluation: Journalist-5
Processed in 1958

2: Morris, John. Living with Lepchas: A Book about the Sikkim Himalayas. London: William Heinemann Ltd., 1938.

Pp. xvi, 312; 32 plates; end-paper map

Yale: Nkd72 I47 938m

[This is a popular account of a six-months stay among the Lepcha, a relatively unacculturated group living in northeastern India on the Tibetan border. The book is loosely organized, being divided into several parts: Introductory and Historical, The People, Magic and Spells, Family Life, Sex, Festivals, and a Conclusion with a chapter on economics. Impressionistic rather than analytic, this source should be read in conjunction with 1: Gorer, this File, Gorer having been Morris' companion during their stay with the Lepchas. Some chapters contain references at the end, but these are also included in a final bibliography. There is a three-section index of persons, places, and general items. The source is particularly strong on ceremonial, sex and personality data. Morris, a former army officer

2: Morris, John.

turned traveler and explorer, at the time of the field work held the Studentship in Anthropology of the William Wyse Foundation of the University of Cambridge. -- Analyst/

Field date: 1937
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1958

3: Nebesky-Wojkowitz, R. de. Hunting and Fishing among the Lepchas. Ethnos, Vol. 18, pp. 21-30. Stockholm: The Ethnographical Museum of Sweden, 1953.

Yale: Nk10. Et7. 18 1/2

[This article describes the methods of hunting and fishing, the various weapons, traps, and poisons used, and the organization of hunting and fishing parties among the Lepchas. Nebesky-Wojkowitz, a lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Vienna, did three years of field work in this area. His materials on the Lepcha are presented in this article and in sources 4, 5, 6 and 8 this file. --Analyst]

Field date: 1950-1953
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1958

4: Nebesky-Wojkowitz, R. de. Ancient Funeral Ceremonies of the Lepchas. The Eastern Anthropologist, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 27-40. Lucknow: Ethnographic and Folk Culture Society, U. P., 1952.

Yale: Nk10. Et295E. 4-6

[This paper describes the ancient funeral ceremonies of the Lepchas as preserved by oral tradition and perhaps still being practiced in remote areas of Sikkim. The author also discusses the Lepcha conception of the human soul and life after death. There are notes on Lepcha diviners and healers as well as the spread of Tibetan culture into Sikkim. For information about the author, see source 3, this file. -- Analyst]

Field date: 1950-1951
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1958

5: Nebesky-Wojkowitz, R. von and Geoffrey Gorer. The Use of Thread-Crosses in Lepcha Lamaist Ceremonies. The Eastern Anthropologist, Vol. 4, pp. 65-87. Lucknow: Ethnographic and Folk Culture Society, U.P., 1951.

Yale: Nk10.Et295E.4-6

[This article describes various ceremonies in which thread-crosses of Bön origin, called deu in Lepcha and mbos in Tibetan, are used, for instance, in the Cherim ceremony and in ceremonies for the prevention and curing of diseases. The distribution of its usage among neighboring peoples is also noted briefly. The authors conclude that it is impossible to state whether the Bön elements incorporated in Lepcha ceremonies came from the original Bön religion, or whether they were introduced through the medium of the Red Hat Sect of Tibetan Buddhism. Notes to the text will be found on pp. 83-87. --Analyst]

Field date: 1937, 1950
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist, Journalist-5
Processed in 1958

6: Nebesky-Wojkowitz, René de. The Lepcha Legend of the Building of the Tower (Die Legende vom Turmbau der Lepcha). Anthropos, Vol. 48, pp. 889-897. Posieux (Freiburg), Switzerland: Anthropos-Institut, 1953.

Yale: Nk10 + An89 48

HRAF manuscript pp. 1-10

(Translated from the German for the Human Relations Area Files by Theodore Ziolkowski)

[This source consists of two versions of a Lepcha legend concerning the building of a tower of pots to the sky. This legend parallels in many respects the story of the Tower of Babel. The author includes an explanation of the two versions. Included is a supplement on some archaeological potsherds from the field where the tower is supposed to have been built which may possibly be Lepcha material, although the Lepcha no longer make pottery. --Analyst]

Field date: 1950-1953
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1958

7: Hooker, Joseph Dalton. Himalayan Journals; or, Notes of a Naturalist in Bengal, the Sikkim and Nepal Himalayas, the Khasia Mountains, &c. 2 volumes. London: John Murray, 1854.

Vol. I, pp. xxviii, 408; 5 plates; 45 text figures; 2 end maps; Vol. II, pp. xii, 487; 7 plates; 35 text figures

Yale: Eefa 848 v.1-2

[Only pp. 122-141 of Vol. I, which contain material on the Lepchas, have been processed for the Files.]

[This source is an early travel account which contains materials on the Lepcha area. Included are data on personality, food, clothing, racial affinities, and religion. By modern ethnographic standards, this source would not be highly regarded, but it is valuable from the point of view of culture change for comparative purposes. Hooker was a famous physician of the Victorian period in England. --Analyst]

Field date: 1849-1851 Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary Processed in 1958

8: Nebesky-Wojkowitz, René. New Acquisitions from Sikkim and Tibet (Neuerwerbungen aus Sikkim und Tibet). Archiv für Völkerkunde, Vol. 8, pp. 269-272. Vienna, 1953.

Yale:

HRAF manuscript: pp. 1-5

/Translated from the German for the Human Relations Area Files by Theodore Ziolkowski./

/This brief source is mainly a listing of the items acquired for the collections of the Museum für Völkerkunde in Vienna by Nebesky-Wojkowitz during his field trip to Sikkim in 1950-1953, including Lepcha and Tibetan materials. Of special interest is the equipment of a Mun priestess which had been handed down for about three centuries in the family of a well-known, recently defunct priestess.--Analyst/

Field data: 1950-1953
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1958.

9: Risley, H.H. The Tribes and Castes of Bengal. Anthropometric Data. Vol. 1. Calcutta: Bengal Secretariat Press, 1891.

Pp. x, xxxviii, 429

Yale: A.O.S. Va R49 v. 1

[Only pp. 240-247, which contain material on the Lepcha, have been processed for the Files]

[This section of the main source consists of two tables giving anthropometric data on 57 Lepcha living in Darjeeling and Sikkim. The measurements were taken with methods and devices recommended by Paul Topinard, with the exception of the naso-malar index which was taken according to the description of Oldfield Thomas. Risley was an officer in the Indian Civil Service. --Analyst]

Field date: 1886-1888 Evaluation: Government Official-5
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary Processed in 1958

111 AK5 Lepcha

10:Waddell, L.A. The 'Lepchas' or 'Rongs' and their Songs. Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie, Vol. 12, pp. 41-57. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1899.

Yale: Nk10 +In86 v.11-12

[This brief source contains the texts of nine Lepcha songs, together with the accompanying music for a few of them, as well as the texts of some of the songs in the original script. Waddell begins the work with a short description of Lepcha culture, with caustic comments on the workers who had done transcriptions of the Lepcha language before him. Waddell was a Colonel, presumably in the British Indian Service. --Analyst]

Field date: 1891
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1958

11:Hermanns, Mathias, Fr., The Indo-Tibetans. The Indo-Tibetans and Mongoloid Problem in the Southern Himalaya and North-Northeast India. Bombay: K. L. Fernandes, 1954.

Pp. xvi, 159, 38 plates, one folding map.

Yale: Nkd72 13 954H

[Only pages vii, 27-109 and end plates VIII-XIX of this source have been processed for the Lepcha file.]

[The data in this source is primarily on Lepcha myths, supernatural beings, beliefs in and descriptions of the land of the dead, religious practitioners, religious ceremonies, weapons, houses and domestic animals. Some of the author's culture-historical reconstructions and interpretations may be open to question--Analyst]

Field date: 1951
Analyst: Robert J. Theodoratus

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1962